



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALTRANS PREPARING FOR POSSIBLE BART STRIKE

Oakland - The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is preparing to help keep the freeways and bridges accessible in the event of a BART strike next Wednesday.

All freeway work that involves daytime closures will be deferred to off-peak hours or to a later date. This means that construction or maintenance that would normally be done during daytime post-morning or pre-evening commute periods will most likely be done at night.

Furthermore, traffic management teams will be out in force to help monitor congested areas by adjusting metering light and activating changeable message signs (CMS).

These teams will assist Caltrans maintenance crews and the California Highway Patrol in clearing traffic incidents and obstructions as part of the award-winning Bay Area Incident Response System (BAIRS). BAIRS identifies and directs local personnel and equipment to traffic obstructions in a matter of minutes.

Inside, staff will monitor traffic conditions in the Traffic Management Center (TMC) through a series of cameras, sensors and field reports in order to deploy teams to hotspots. TMC staff also can activate CMSs, highway advisory radios (HAR) within minutes.

At the bridges, toll staff will be out in force to collect tolls from motorists without FasTrak. Caltrans expects the FasTrak dedicated lanes to be at capacity, which is 1,800 cars per hour. All lanes accept FasTrak. Metering lights at the Bay Bridge will be adjusted in the field according to traffic conditions.

Caltrans reminds motorists that they have options in the event of a strike and encourages all motorists to plan ahead.





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FasTrak is one option. If you haven't signed up for FasTrak yet, you may call 511, go to www.511.org or visit the FasTrak Service Center at 475 Embarcadero in San Francisco.

Carpooling is another option, and Caltrans also encourages co-workers, friends and neighbors to carpool.

Park & Ride lots provide an accessible meeting point for carpooling. In state-owned Park & Ride lots, there are 5,300 parking spaces in the Bay Area alone, 2100 of which are still available on a first come, first served basis each day (based on recent counts). This is an excellent way to reduce congestion and utilize carpool lanes on Bay Area freeways. See <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist4/highwayops/parkandride/> for locations and information.

Motorists should also use public transit where possible to ease congestion. To find the best transit options and explore traffic conditions, visit www.511.org or call 511.

Caltrans will be considering other operational efficiencies to the freeway system and will update information as it becomes available. Stay tuned to <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist4>.

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